

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9310

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 1086

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP RP PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE ARMORED CARS: BRAVIA

REF: MANILA 2971

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING BRAVIA -- SOCIEDADE LUSO-BRASILEIRA DE VIATURAS E EQUIPAMENTOS SARL, PROVIDED AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL.

2. BRAVIA ESTABLISHED NEAR LISBON IN 1967 AS MECHANICAL AND CONSULTING ENGINEERING FIRM. IN 1969 COMPANY INITIATED PRODUCTION OF SMALL ARMORED AND AMPHIBIOUS MILITARY VEHICLES USING PRIMARILY IMPORTED PARTS. VEHICLES PUT TOGETHER IN FACILITIES OF ASSOCIATED FIRM VEICULOS MOTORIZADOS SARL, WHOSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS SAME AS BRAVIA'S.

3. BRAVIA SELLS PART OF ITS PRODUCTION TO GOP (SO FAR AT LEAST 80 "CHAIMITE" AMPHIBIOUS VEHICLES), AND EXPORTS REST. SHIPMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PERU (26 ARMORED CARS), AND SPAIN, LEBANON AND BRAZIL HAVE BEEN REPORTED INTERESTED IN PURCHASING UNITS.

4. FIRM'S PORTUGUESE MANAGER, MAJOR JOAO BAPTISTA DE SOUSA DONAS-BOTTO, WAS INDICTED IN MAY 1972 BY US DISTRICT

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COURT IN DETROIT, ALONG WITH TWO FORMER EMPLOYEES OF

CADILLAC GAGE CORP., FOR CONSPIRING TO TRANSFER TO PORTUGAL,
WITHOUT USG PERMISSION, BLUEPRINTS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF
COMMANDO XM706 AMPHIBIOUS VEHICLE MADE BY CADILLAC GAGE.

5. CHRYSLER CORP SUBSEQUENTLY INDICTED BY SAME COURT IN
JANUARY 1973, ALONG WITH DONAS-BOTTO, FOR ILLEGALLY
SHIPPING 100 ENGINES TO BRAVIA IN 1968 AND 1970 FOR USE
IN ITS "CHAIMITE" AMPHIBIOUS CAR.
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